Advisory Committees to improve the working in Passport Offices

284. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to have advisory committees to improve the working of Passport Offices in the country and Foreign Missions abroad;

(b) if so, whether such committees will be appointed State-wise and Region-wise; and

(c) who will be the members of such proposed Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FA-LEIRO) : (a) Yes sir.

(b) It is proposed to appoint these Committees Passport Office-wise.

(c) It is proposed that these Committees should comprise prominent citizens as well as representatives of the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government.

Interim relief to N.T.C. employees

285. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interim relief is paid to all employees of the Government of India undertakings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that workers in National Textiles Corporation are not paid any interim relief; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) Interim Relief was paid to National Textile Corporation staff on Central D.A. pattern, pending revision of pay scales. The pay scales of such employees has since been revised with the adjustment of Interim Relief.

As regards workers in NTC mills, wages including interim relief if any, are paid on Region-cum-industry basis, arrival at through agreements/ wage settlements.

Pay Scale and VDA to NTC Employees

286. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of units of National Textile Corporation that are functioning in Bihar; and

(b) what are the minimum pay scales and the VDA paid to employees of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) National Textile Corporation is run-ing 2 textile units in Bihar.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Alternate agencies for marketing of Coal

287. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision to market/sell coal through an agency other than Coal India Limi ted was taken two years back; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for non-implementation of this decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) As per available information, no such decision was taken.

(b) Does not arise.